

*****U N C L A S S I F I E D*****S COPY

FLASH

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Z 141928Z DEC 73 ZYH ZFF-1 ZFF-4
FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 82

TO USDEL RIYADH

UNCLAS [REDACTED] WH37592

25X1

TOHAK 82

TO LARRY EAGLEBURGER FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

NO. 91

MIDDLE EAST

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEMBERS OF SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER'S DELEGATION SAID TODAY THERE WAS A "BETTER THAN 50-50 CHANCE" THE ARABS WILL LIFT THEIR OIL EMBARGO NEXT MONTH. THEY SAID THEY EXPECTED ISRAEL AND EGYPT TO BE NEGOTIATING A DISENGAGEMENT OF THEIR ARMIES ON THE SUEZ FRONT BY THAT TIME. THEY MADE THE STATEMENT ON ARRIVAL IN RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA FROM CAIRO. KISSINGER IS SCHEDULED TO MEET KING FAISAL DURING HIS STAY.

SAUDI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND U.S. DIPLOMATS IN RIYADH INDICATED FAISAL MIGHT BE WILLING TO CONSIDER A LIMITED RESUMPTION OF OIL DELIVERIES TO AFFECTED NATIONS IF PRESIDENT NIXON OR KISSINGER MAKES A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT CALLING FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORY.

IN CAIRO, KISSINGER SAID PUBLICLY THAT A SETTLEMENT MUST BE WITHIN TERMS OF THE 1967 U.N. RESOLUTION SEEKING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. THIS APPARENTLY IS JUST WHAT THE SAUDIS WANT --PUBLIC REAFFIRMATION OF U.S. COMMITMENT TO THE MEASURE. PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT SAID EGYPT WAS WILLING TO BE IN THE SAME ROOM WITH ISRAEL AT THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE, "BUT IF YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS, THE ANSWER IS NO."

HE ALSO SAID HE HOPED THE TWO SIDES WOULD BE ABLE TO BARGAIN SERIOUSLY ABOUT DISENGAGEMENT OF EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

SADAT SPOKE AFTER MEETING WITH KISSINGER FOR THE SECOND TIME IN TWO DAYS.

12-14-73 13:57EST

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MORI/CDF
C03342326

State Dept. review completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

*****WHSR COMMENT*****

SECFL

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